

Beierle Farm, Chicken House
Denver International Airport Site
Hudson Road & 96th Avenue
Denver
Denver County
Colorado

HABS No. CO-124-D

HABS
COLO
16-DENV,
63D-

PHOTOGRAPH

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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BEIERLE FARM,
CHICKEN HOUSE

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Location: Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 24, Township 2 South, Range 65 West, Sixth Prime Meridian. Denver County, Colorado. Vicinity of Watkins, Colorado.

UTM: 13: 532500, 4412500

Present Owner: Denver International Airport, City and County of Denver

Present Occupant: Vacant

Present Use: None

Statement of
Significance:

As a complex, the current Beierle Farm offers an example of the work process and flow of a wheat and grain farm and its methods of operation. In particular the grain bins and scale house offer examples of facilities frequently used by farmers in the area. Other buildings testify to the evolution of the farm from a dairy to a grain farm.

The Beierle Farm also has significance as an example of farm evolution and development by Adams County, Colorado, tenant farmers. Tenant farming was a common pattern of land use and livelihood for much of the area during most of the twentieth century. The Ray Beierle family worked as tenant farmers for more than fifty years. They worked at this farm for three different landlords, the Grossmans, the District Land Owners Trust and finally for Box Elder Farms until 1990. In addition, the Beierle Farm house is a significant example of an 1890s vernacular hipped cottage.

Project Statement: This Historic American Building Survey recording project is part of both the historic preservation plan for the Denver International Airport and a long term program to document historically significant buildings in the United States. The City and County of Denver through the Denver International Airport provided funding for the project.

The field work, measured drawings, historical reports and photographs were prepared under the direction of Deborah Andrews of Andrews & Anderson under contract to the City and County of Denver. Deborah Andrews, Nanon Anderson, Karen Hardaway and Jim Fischer of Andrews & Anderson did the field measurements and architectural delineations. Arnold Thallheimer undertook the photography. Steven Mehls of Western Historical Studies, under sub-contract to Andrews & Anderson, served as project historian.

Historian:

Steven F. Mehls, Western Historical
Studies, Inc., March 10, 1992

Chicken House

Exterior

The chicken house is composed of two attached, shed roofed forms, with the rear shed higher than the front one. The height difference creates a clerestory at the intersection. The roofs and clerestory are framed in wood. The roof is sheathed with wood planking and covered with green asphalt shingles. The walls are six inch concrete block. The foundation is poured concrete. The windows are trimmed with 1x4 stock. There are only a few small windows in the chicken house, which is typical in buildings of this type. The windows are wood sash and frame, glazed with four panes. Northeast of the chicken coop is a line of five cylindrical metal grain bins that date to the 1960s and 1970s.¹

Interior

The interior is a large open space. All fittings and fixtures have been removed and the walls are concrete block. The interior, especially the rafters, shows evidence of fire damage which may help explain the varying dates of construction referred to earlier.

Existing Condition

The asphalt shingles are deteriorated. Many panes of window glass are broken or missing. The concrete block walls have cracks throughout and the exterior paint is peeling. The foundation along the north wall on the east has cracked and pulled away from the east wall. Consequently, the block above it is cracking and bowing out. This condition appears to be caused by poor perimeter drainage at that corner of the building.

Endnote

1.Appraisal Card, Parcel 1725-00-0-00-057, Adams County Assessor's Office, Brighton, CO.